

example, was distorted because of the way the Census forms asked respondents to specify their Hispanic origin. On the Census 2000 form, while Hispanics who are not of Mexican, Puerto Rican or Cuban origin were given the option of listing their origin as "other" and naming the group, they were not provided with examples of what to list, as they had been on the Census 1990 form. This seemingly minor change in the form led many respondents to not fill in a country of origin at all. As the next census is designed, I hope that this problem will not occur again. Having accurate information about the diversity of the Hispanic population will enable us to better target resources that are culturally sensitive to these communities.

As the Census Bureau begin its next 100 years of service to the United States, I hope that it will work seriously and earnestly to address the undercount of minorities. I urge the Census Bureau to re-examine its methods and procedures so that the accuracy of the decennial count can be improved. It should be everyone's goal that the Census reveal the entire picture of America.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 339, and to honor the Census Bureau and the thousand's of dedicated employees.

The employees of our federal statistical system labor day in and out to provide the information necessary to govern our country and manage our economy. Businesses use federal data to locate plants and retail outlets. Local governments used federal data to comply with regulations and to plan for the future. Few people stop to wonder how all of those numbers are out our finger tips at a moments notice.

There are eleven major statistical agencies in the federal government: the Bureau of Labor Statistics; the Bureau of Economic Statistics; the Bureau of Transportation Statistics; the U.S. Census Bureau; the National Center for Education Statistics; the Statistics of Income at the IRS; the Energy Information Agency; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Agricultural Statistical Service and the Economic Research Service with the Department of Agriculture; and the National Center for Health Statistics. The Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau are the two largest agencies when you exclude the decennial census.

The decennial census is the largest single activity undertaken by a statistical agency. The census is a management challenge that few agencies, statistical or otherwise, could accomplish. In the year of the census, the Census Bureau opens and closes over 500 offices. The agency goes from a staff of 7 to 10 thousand, to 500,000 and back again in a period of about three months. That means 500,000 people must be hired. Thousand more must be recruited and interviewed. In addition to hiring and training staff, the census requires the management of multiple contracts each of which is measured in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Then, of course, the data must be tabulated and prepared for the President—all within a year.

That would be a major accomplishment for any agency. However, that is only one of many census performed by the Census Bureau. Furthermore, censuses are not their only line of business. The Census Bureau collects data for a number of other agencies within the federal government.

To list all of the accomplishments of the employees at the Census Bureau would take more time that both sides have today. Suffice it to say, as a country we are fortunate to have a statistical agency staffed with professionals who produce daily, the information necessary to guide public policy. We salute those employees today as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Census Bureau.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 339.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PERIODIC REPORT ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS PAYMENTS MADE TO CUBA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

As required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), I transmit herewith a semi-annual report prepared by my Administration detailing payments made to Cuba by United States persons as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 12, 2002.

#### AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND AUSTRALIA ON SOCIAL SECURITY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 107-186)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95-216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia on Social Security, which consists of two separate instruments: a principal agreement and an adminis-

trative arrangement along with a paragraph-by-paragraph explanation of each provision. The Agreement was signed at Canberra on September 27, 2001.

The United States-Australia Agreement is similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries. The United States-Australia Agreement contains all provisions mandated by section 233 and other provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4).

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report prepared by the Social Security Administration explaining the key points of the Agreement. Annexed to this report is the report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, a report on the effect of the Agreement on income and expenditures of the U.S. Social Security program and the number of individuals affected by the Agreement. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Agreement and related documents to me.

I commend the United States-Australia Social Security Agreement and related documents.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 12, 2002.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

#### VACATING ORDERING OF YEAS AND NAYS ON H.R. 2175, BORN-ALIVE INFANTS PROTECTION ACT OF 2001

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to vacate the ordering of the yeas and nays on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2175, to the end that the Chair put the question on the motion de novo.